Application No.: 09/758,980   Docket No.: 20136-00327-US

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-17, and 19 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,309 (Vanechanos, Jr.) is requested.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 17 have been amended to make it clear that a generalized CGI program is used to process a variety of different types of CGI applications. The CGI handler of the present invention generates the action codes based on a parameter HTML file. In this way, a plurality of different forms may be sent to a user and only a single CGI handler is necessary to derive the action component for the particular application being handled.

Turning to the Vanechanos reference, a merchandising system is disclosed for conducting commercial transactions over the internet. The patent discloses a system which is specific to one type of CGI processing, namely, order-entry processing. In carrying out the invention, a plurality of CGI applications are independently created and stored in a repository. When appropriate search parameters are received from the user, the search engine searches to see whether or not a form exists for the particular order which is to be placed. The form corresponds to a canned CGI program which is dedicated to the form.

The present invention is directed to generalized CGI handler, which can handle all types of CGI processing including 1) order entry; 2) online subscription; 3) online library search; 4) online voting and tally; 5) online survey and tally, etc. The generalized CGI handler has an initial prompting part, i.e., gathering program, GNCGI, as well as an action part, GNCGIB. The action (or return response) part is generated based on parameters assigned by the creator of the application. As set forth in the amended claims, once the gathering operation has commenced, the parameter file is used by the action par to parse data which is received in from the user. The CGI handler reads the parameter input and generates the specific appropriate action CGI codes. Thus, it is easy to create new applications once the parameter HTML file has been created.

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The cited reference, on the other hand, provides only a repository of pre-set, developed action codes, which are retrieved once the CGI search engine determines what parameters are being passed from the user. The CGI doesn't generate any action, but merely calls up a particular stored program for the given application.

Applicant's claims have been amended in a way to distinguish them from the cited art. For instance, in claim 1 it is clear that the parsing of the collected data, according to the parameter file, forms an output file. This structure is now in amended claim 7 and claim 17. It is submitted that the cited reference to Vanechanos does not disclosure this feature of using a parameter file to parse the input data in a common CGI processing routine.

Original claim 13, the remaining independent claim in the case, also as originally filed makes it clear that a single CGI form handling program is used for first and second CGI forms. The features of being able to accept the first input data from a first form and a second from a second form using a single CGI handling program (as opposed to a stored group of such programs) is not disclosed in the cited reference.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 12, 14-16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanechanos in view of FormRunner documentation is requested.

While it is admitted that FormRunner teaches the ability to send formatted form data through electronic mail, it is not seen where the remaining limitations of these claims aren't disclosed in either FormRunner or Vanechanos. Specifically, claim 6 is ultimately dependent on amended claim 1. The step of parsing collecting data, according to a parameter file, and derived from a selected CGI form, does not appear to be disclosed in either reference.

Claim 14 is distinguished along the same lines, in that input fields of the corresponding CGI form are parsed to generate a parameter file. Further, the initial data gathering routine is executed for each of the first and second requests, even though the requests are for different CGI forms.

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Claim 15 is further distinguished by requiring that the parameter file be read to determine which fields of the submitted form are to be processed, and that the data in the fields be formatted in accordance to this step. It is submitted that the cited references fail to disclose any of these features.

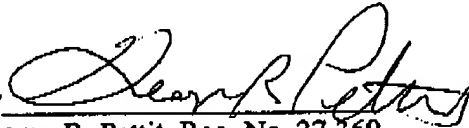In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20136-00327-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: //01/04   Respectfully submitted,

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